

## Jamesville Town Primary Election Provided In Bill

### Representative Anderson Says Powell Bill Is Costly To The County

Raleigh—Rep. E. G. Anderson last week introduced a bill providing for a primary system in nomination of candidates for the office of mayor and members of the board of commissioners of the town of Jamesville.

Now nominated by convention, under the terms of the bill all candidates would have to file a statement of candidacy 10 days prior to the primary election. Primaries are set for the fourth Monday preceding the general election.

The town clerk is ordered to post names of candidates—as they are to appear on the primary ballots—immediately upon expiration of the time for filing. Election judges shall count the ballots and make returns of the count to the town clerk within six hours of the closing polls. The next day following the primary, the town clerk—under supervision of the mayor and commissioners and in public meeting—is to canvass the returns.

Senator Hugh Horton of Martin was one of 25 signers of a bill calling for a 10 percent pay raise for all state employees other than teachers.

Representative Anderson was one of the original signers of the bill in the House.

Horton, chairman of the Senate Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns, gave members of his committee quite a workout Wednesday. They took up and passed on 19 local bills—none of which, incidentally, affected Martin County.

Senator Sam Campen of Pamlico—the other Second District Senator—started the deluge of amendments exempting counties from the provisions of the jail protection bill, on which action was postponed until Monday.

Campen sent up an amendment asking exemption for Pamlico, Washington, Hyde and Tyrrell. Then came the deluge, with 19 counties in all asking to be let out.

The measure provides that someone shall be kept "at or near" jails in order to take care of prisoners in case of fire.

At the Municipal Street hearing Thursday, Rep. Anderson voted in favor of the Gudger bill, calling for a referendum on taking over city-street paving and adding seven-tenths of a cent gasoline tax to pay for it. The bill was defeated by the committee, however, 33 to 11.

Anderson said folks from the towns in his county originally had

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## Large Percentage Pass Examination

No official report could be had immediately, and only a few of the boys could be contacted, but according to one young man, approximately fifty of the seventy-two Martin County young men reporting for preliminary army examinations last Friday passed with flying colors.

The percentage passing the tests was said to be about the highest reported since the first men went for the preliminary exams last October.

### GOOD START

The annual Red Cross Drive was off to a good start in the business section here yesterday when the canvassers went to work in earnest. Favorable reports were heard before the morning was spent, and Chairman John Henry Edwards and his co-chairman, H. P. Mobley, are much encouraged over the prospects for a successful drive.

Plans are rapidly being completed for extending the drive into the residential sections of the various towns and rural areas next week, and the chairmen are again appealing for support.

## Radio Station WIAM to Go On Air At 1 P. M. March 14

The Martin County Broadcasting Company will place its station, WIAM, in operation on Wednesday, March 14, it was announced today by the new owners, Jim Gray of Robersonville and Henry A. Johnson of Williamston. Operating on a frequency of 900 cycles and having 1,000-watt power, the station will break the air at 1:00 o'clock that afternoon.

A formal program is being planned for the event, Gray and Johnson said and the details will be announced shortly. During the meantime, all indications point to an event long to be remembered in this section of the State.

### NEW PASTOR



Called to succeed Rev. Jas. I. Lowry as pastor of the Presbyterian church, Rev. J. Don Skinner is moving his family—Mrs. Skinner and their three children, Don 10, Gerry 9 and Gayle 5, here today from Donaldsonville, Georgia, and he is to occupy the pulpit Sunday morning at the 11:00 o'clock hour.

The new minister is a native of Greenville, S. C. After attending the University of South Carolina, and was graduated from the Columbia Theological Seminary in 1948. He served North Georgia churches for several years and in 1943 was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Donaldsonville where he served until he accepted the position here. During his stay in Donaldsonville, the minister handled an effective work, organizing various groups within the church and building a mission at Rocky Ridge near Donaldsonville. During his stay in Donaldsonville, the Sunday school membership was increased from 35 to 127, and the church has grown from a home mission to a self-supporting unit.

## Native Of County Dies In Beaufort

Henry Clyde Modlin, native of this county, died at his home near Pinetown in Beaufort County, Monday morning following a short illness. He had been in failing health for some time.

The son of the late William Ashley and Sarah Hardison Modlin, he was born in the Jamesville section 65 years ago and spent his early life there. For a number of years he was in the maritime service, working on tug boats.

Surviving are a brother and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon and interment will be in the Yeatesville Cemetery.

## Griffins Tenant House Destroyed

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the three-room tenant house of Farmer T. C. Griffin at Smithwick's Creek between 8:30 and 9:00 o'clock Sunday evening, causing a loss of approximately \$1,500. Oscar Biggs and family, occupying the house, had left that afternoon about 5:00 o'clock and no one was there when the fire started, the family losing all earthly goods except those worn on their backs at the time.

No insurance was carried on the property.

## Law Would Allow Increase In Rate For County Fund

Senate Passes Bill to Ratify Amendment Limiting Terms of Presidents

Raleigh—The House, last Wednesday passed and sent to the Senate a bill calling for a constitutional amendment vote to raise the county ad valorem tax limit from 15 to 20 cents per \$100 evaluation.

The bill calls for a vote on the question at the next general election. It met only scattered opposition, with only six members of the House—the entire Guilford delegation and Reps. Brantley Womble and Phil Whitley of Wake—voting against it.

Whitley said that he remembered the "dark days of the '30s" when farmers were losing their land because of high ad valorem taxes. He said he could not see raising the land tax, since that one reason the county's had asked to have the State take over their road and school problems was to be relieved of the heavy property tax burden.

Rep. Kerr Craig Ramsey of Rowan said that the bill was introduced because so many counties wanted the tax rise. He said it was supported by the county commissioners' association, and did not necessarily mean more taxes in many of the counties in the State.

He reminded the representatives that it would have to be voted upon by the people of the State and that a similar amendment—although it raised the limit from 15 to 25 cents—had been defeated in 1949 general election.

The bill passed its second reading 102 to 6 and its third reading 100 to 6.

Rep. James H. Pittman of Richmond sent in a resolution calling on House members to forget personal and political considerations, "cast enmities aside" and get the job done and "get home where we belong."

His resolution noted that the assembly was in its 43rd day with little accomplished. It also reminded representatives that they would be serving without pay after 90 days. It was turned over to the committee on propositions and grievances.

Other new bills included: One introduced in both houses giving state employees other than school teachers a flat 10 percent raise. Reps. Edwin Pou of Wake and C. Wayland Spruill of Bertie introduced the measure in the House, while Senator Bunn Frink and 24 other senators signed the measure in the upper chamber.

Mecklenburg and Guilford representatives joined in introducing a bill calling for establishment of "redevelopment commissions" charged with slum clearance projects. These commissions, which go a step farther than housing authorities, would have the power to buy land, condemn property, sell to private companies for redevelopment, issue bonds, borrow money, enter agreements with the federal government, accept gifts and grants from state, county, city or other public and private sources.

Introducers said one of the aims was to take advantage of federal provisions which allow federal funds to be used up to three-fourths of the total amount in acquiring such areas.

It also allows the commissions to sell to private companies for "residences, recreation, commerce, industry or other uses" at "its fair value."

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The sale of the Colonial Freezer Locker Plant of Williamston to Wullenwaber, Westbrook and Tyler was confirmed by the stockholders in a meeting held here yesterday afternoon. The original bid of \$28,000 was raised, but it was ruled out on a technicality, one report explained.

## Freezer Locker Sale Confirmed

Operators of a large plant in Dunn, the new firm is taking over the plant and management on Thursday of this week, it was announced.

Rev. W. B. Sheridan, Methodist minister of Battleboro and pastor of Williams Chapel, officiated.

### DIES OF WOUNDS



Cpl. Harry Paul Roberson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Roberson of Everetts died of wounds in Korea on February 18.

In one of his last letters to his sister, Mrs. Lawrence Coltrain, the young man instructed her to tell his mother not to worry about him, "because I am in very good hands."

He went on to say, "I see many little kids up and down the roads, half naked and almost starved to death. I would rather die than see your kids like that and have my mother treated like these people have been and are being treated. Sis, you can't imagine the sufferings and trials these people have experienced. It would make you sick in your stomach. They eat out of garbage cans, Men like Pop do the work of a horse. They carry about 150 pounds on their backs all day. Some just fall over and die of exhaustion and hunger."

The young man declared he was tired of it all over there, but he explained that before he would see his family treated as the South Koreans had been treated, he would sacrifice his life willingly.

"Sis, boys over here sit and cry; some are scared and others are laughing and wondering if they'll ever see home again. We all have our troubles. Sis, if I lose my life over here, you'll know I died to keep my family safe and spare them the kind of life the people here are experiencing," the young man said.

In what was apparently his last letter to his sister under date of February 14, the corporal asked about his parents, saying, "I worry a lot about them. I guess it's because I love them so much."

Surviving besides his parents are a brother, Mack Alden Roberson of Everetts, and two sisters, Mrs. Lawrence Coltrain of Everetts and Miss Jackie Frances Roberson of Miami, Florida.

He is the eleventh casualty among Martin County young men in the Korean conflict, and the third known to have given up his life in the struggle since last November.

## Prominent Citizen Died At His Home In County Friday

### Funeral Service Held Near Oak City Last Sunday Afternoon

John Franklin Johnson, prominent Martin County farmer, died at his home near Oak City last Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. He had been in declining health for several months and his condition was critical for about three weeks.

The son of the late Martin V. and Florence Harrell Johnson, he was born in Goose Nest Township seventy-three years ago on October 5, 1877, and spent all his life on the farm in that section.

He was married to Miss Nola Johnson, one daughter, Mrs. C. L. Sorie, of Enfield, surviving that union. His second marriage was to Miss Susie Rogers who survives with three sons, Jonas Johnson of Palmyra, Samuel Johnson of Seaboard and Johnnie Johnson of Hamilton; five daughters, Mrs. Florence Warren of Oak City, Mrs. Francis Harrell of Hamilton, Mrs. Susie Braddy of Scotland Neck, Mrs. Alice Johnson of New York City, and Mrs. Martha Williams of Robersonville; one sister, Mrs. Florence Sorie of Enfield; thirty grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

An able farmer and thoughtful friend and neighbor, Mr. Johnson was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Interment was in the Oak City Cemetery.

Rev. W. B. Sheridan, Methodist minister of Battleboro and pastor of Williams Chapel, officiated.

## County Youth Dies Of Korean Wounds On February 18th

### Cpl. Harry Paul Roberson Had Been Wounded Twice Since October

Cpl. Harry Paul Roberson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roberson of Everetts, died of wounds in Korea on February 18, according to information released last week by Major General Edward F. Whitsell for the U. S. Army. No details were given, but in a letter written on February 13, the young man said he was getting along all right.

Volunteering for service on May 3 of last year, the young man took his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and flew to Japan on September 17. A short time later he was in Korea and he had been in action hardly more than five minutes before he was painfully injured in the hip. Returned to service, he was wounded a second time in January, and had recovered from the shoulder wound and returned to front line action. He was in line for a leave from the fighting front when it is believed he was cut off with about sixty other men and wounded while in the trap.

He was born in Everetts twenty-two years ago on October 30, 1928. After completing the Everetts school, he attended high school in Robersonville, volunteering for service in the Coast Guard two weeks before his graduation. During the fifteen months he was in the Coast Guard, he was stationed in Alaska and New Mexico.

Following his return from Coast Guard service, he studied at a business school in Raleigh, finishing there in 1949. He was employed by the J. C. White Metal Works in Williamston and was with the Fields Tobacco Company, Robersonville, and The Imperial Tobacco Company, Greenville, before volunteering for service at Williamston last May.

When just a young fellow he was employed by a dime store in Williamston. Possessed of a pleasing personality, the young man had many friends in this county and in those places outside the county where he attended school and worked.

Surviving besides his parents are a brother, Mack Alden Roberson of Everetts, and two sisters, Mrs. Lawrence Coltrain of Everetts and Miss Jackie Frances Roberson of Miami, Florida.

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## Draft Board Has Two Delinquents

While several were slow in getting in their address changes and confusion surrounded others, there are only two delinquent registrants with the Martin County Draft Board at this time. One or two were called to report for final induction, and they showed up at the last minute and were accepted.

The names of Malvin Hodge, 623 West Church St. and Detroit, and James Earl Moore of Robersonville and 3715 Lake Park, Chicago, have been turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was learned today after the men had been classed as delinquent.

### DEMONSTRATION

A demonstration in soil fumigation, the first of its kind ever planned in this county, will be held on Coy Roberson's farm in Griffins Township Thursday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock under the supervision of specialists from the Standard Fertilizer Company.

In addition to the demonstration, the specialists will discuss the system in detail, and farmers are invited to attend.

### SGT. JAS. ELLIS



Sgt. James Harrell Ellis, young Martin County man was killed in action in Korea on January 15, his parents were notified the early part of last week.

The son of Nat G. and Pruey Hardison Ellis, he was born in Griffins Township on July 6, 1928, and spent his early life on the farm. He attended Farm Life School, and in 1947 volunteered for service in the army. Returning from service he was employed by the Roberson Packing Company in Williamston for a while before going to Richmond in 1949 to accept employment in the Colonial Store organization there. A member of the reserve, he was called back for service last September, reporting to a base in Texas. About three weeks later he was transferred to Japan, reaching Korea shortly before Christmas, 1950.

He was an only child and well held in high esteem by all who knew him. He had many friends in his native and adopted communities and was possessed of a likable and friendly character. A member of the Baptist Church at Pine Grove for about five years, he attended its services regularly and had the makings of a fine young man.

In his last letter home, written just a few days before the end, he told his mother that he had been in the front lines for twenty straight days, that although he had had only one half day off, he did not complain.

## Announce Essay Contest Winners

The county finals in the essay contest sponsored by the Martin County Ministerial Association on the subject, "The Truth About Beverage Alcohol," were held in the Williamston white high school last Thursday night and the Williamston colored school on Friday night.

The winners Thursday night were as follows: Patsy Roberson of Robersonville, 1st; Ernest Taylor of Williamston, 2nd; Nell Modlin of Jamesville, 3rd; Mary Elizabeth Harrell of Oak City, 4th; Evelyn Cowan of Bear Grass, 5th; and Joseph Lilley of Farm Life, 6th.

The winners Friday night were, Walter Davis of Parnelle, 1st, and Shirley James of Williamston, 2nd.

Altogether, 151 essays were written in all the white schools and 40 in the colored. The Ministerial Association paid out \$203.00 in prizes in addition to a goodly sum spent for resource materials for each high school and other incidental expenses.

The ministers have been well pleased with the general success of the contest and feel that it is a most effective method of reaching young people with essential information about beverage alcohol.

The present campaign of alcohol education in the schools of the county will be concluded next week when the last picture, "The Vicious Circle" will be shown March 6, 7 and 8.

## Suffers Severe Injury In Fall Here Saturday

Falling in the kitchen of her home on Academy Street here early last Saturday afternoon, Mrs. J. D. Woolard, Sr., suffered a bad fracture of the hip.

She was carried by Biggs ambulance to Brown's Hospital where her removal to Duke was advised. She underwent an operation Sunday morning and was reported today to be getting along as well as could be expected.

## Street Bill Gets Approval of House Finance Group

### Town Representatives Say If More Money Is Needed Then Add Taxes

Raleigh—It took the House Finance Committee just two hours last Thursday to hold a public hearing and then give a favorable report to the Powell municipal street bill.

Backers of the measure—which earmarks one-half cent of current gas tax revenue for city and town streets—stymied every effort to delay action. The committee also killed—by a 38-11 vote—the Gudger bill, which called for a state-wide vote on the policy of the State taking over city street building and maintenance and the addition of seven-tenths of a cent extra gas tax to pay the freight.

The Powell bill now will be sent to the House Appropriations Committee for action, Finance Chairman E. T. Bost of Cabarrus said.

The Powell bill provides that the State Highway Commission shall take over maintenance and construction of all state highways passing through cities and towns in addition to earmarking the half-cent gas tax (approximately \$4,800,000 a year) for the cities and towns. This money is to be paid in cash to municipalities and is to be divided on a basis of population and street mileage.

It now is only street bill before the Legislature, and seems assured of passage despite increasing opposition from small towns and the less populous counties. If it should be killed, cities and towns are not likely to get any extra funds from this General Assembly.

At the hearing, the principal argument against the Powell bill was that it would take much-needed funds from the primary highway system. The principal argument for the Powell Bill was that the cities and towns needed help in their street-paving problems, and that this measure seemed to be the only one that had a chance of passing the General Assembly.

The House chamber predominantly packed with League of Municipality members who had a meeting here that morning supporting the Powell bill.

Dr. Henry Jordan, Highway Commission chairman, told the

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## Continues Ill After Suffering An Attack

Mr. J. Lawrence Peele, well-known local business man, continues ill following an attack suffered last week. He was able to be out for short intervals up until yesterday afternoon when he was advised by his doctor to rest for a few days.

## Undergoes Operation For A Broken Hip

Breaking her hip in a fall at her home near Bear Grass early yesterday morning, Mrs. Ola Harris, aged resident, was removed to a Washington hospital in a Biggs ambulance and underwent an operation a short time later. While the injury is serious, Mrs. Harris was reported to be getting along very well following the operation.

### VOLUNTEER

The response to the original call for blood donors is said to be very encouraging, and all indications point to a full subscription of the 175-pint quota when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to Williamston on March 30. Individuals are calling in to offer blood and heads of various civic organizations and other agencies are lining up volunteers. Recruit Chairman Bill Spivey said today.

Mrs. J. B. Taylor was the first woman volunteer, it was learned yesterday. Others who will give a pint of blood are asked to call the Red Cross office, Phone 2661, or contact Mr. Spivey.